

ADULT FEEDING BY *DYNASTES TITYUS* (LINN.)  
(COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE)

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The recent paper by Dr. Glaser on the biology of *Dynastes tityus* (Linn.) in this journal (June 1976) recalled a field observation on adult feeding that I made nearly 50 years ago.

While walking along the edge of a cotton field early on the morning of 24 August 1928 at Meredith, South Carolina, I found a fine male specimen on the ground between two rows of cotton. A step or two further and I was elated to find another. Curious as to where they came from I glanced upward into a small Ash tree and discovered more beetles all over the tree, clinging to limbs up to an inch and a half in diameter. The tree was about 15 to 20 feet tall. Each beetle, its legs wrapped around the limb, appeared to be pushing a small ball of excelsior, feeding on the sap or inner bark. I collected 44 males and 10 females. When handled, the males gave off a strong, characteristic, penetrating odor.



Prof. Franklin Sherman of Clemson College later told me that in North Carolina he had been called to a home to investigate a pungent, disagreeable odor, and he had traced the odor to *Dynastes* feeding on large Ash trees surrounding the house. Apparently Ash (*Fraxinus*, species undetermined) is an attractive source of food for the adult beetles.

